



Montana

## Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

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### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

#### **Jobs for Montana's Graduates Fall Leadership Luncheon**

(Helena) --- Nearly 250 student officers of the Montana Career Association, representing more than 30 high schools, five alternative schools and one National Guard program, will glean wisdom from today's leaders at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Jobs for Montana's Graduates Leadership luncheon beginning at noon at the Red Lion Colonial ballroom in Helena on October 24.

Jobs for Montana's Graduates (JMG), a Montana Department of Labor and Industry administrated school-to-career and drop-out prevention program, is dedicated to helping young people graduate from high school and make successful transitions to postsecondary education, the military or meaningful employment.

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"By opening up a dialogue of our triumphs and struggles we show that everyone takes a first step," said Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly. "In return the students share with us their commitment to the journey."

JMG underclassmen have a return to school rate of 92 percent statewide and a 90 percent return in schools serving Indian youth.

The Montana Career Association student officers represent Absarokee, Billings, Boulder, Bridger, Brockton, Butte (HS and Alternative), Cascade, Culbertson, Deer Lodge, Dillon (National Guard), Dodson, Dutton, Frazer, Fromberg, Geyser, Glasgow, Glendive, Harlem, Havre (HS and Alternative), Helena (HS and Alternative), Judith Gap, Lame Deer, Libby (Alternative), Lodge Grass, Malta, Nashua, Philipsburg, Plains, Poplar, Roberts, Rudyard, Scobey, Whitehall and Whitefish (Alternative).

**Who?** A sampling of leaders include: First Lady Nancy Schweitzer, M.C. Beeby of the Montana Tennis Association, Dick Brown of the Montana Hospital Association, Andy O'Neill of Valley Bank, Jay Listoe of CTA Architects, Sandy Merdinger of GEAR UP, Curtis Grevanitz of KTVH, and John Doran of the Helena Independent Record.

**What?** Leaders will share lunch and their career journey with student officers.

**Where?** Red Lion Colonial Hotel, 2301 Colonial Drive, Ballroom, Helena, Montana

**When?** Wednesday, October 24, 2007, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

**Contact:** For additional information please contact Lucille Thomason, JMG, 406-444-2534.

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